

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred Senate Bill No. 60
3 entitled “An act relating to establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to
4 provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions” respectfully reports
5 that it is has considered the same and recommends that the report of the
6 Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry be amended as
7 follows:

8 First: In Sec. 1, findings, in subdivision (1), after “and other” and before
9 “disasters” by striking out “climate-fueled” and inserting in lieu thereof
10 “weather-based”

11 and in subdivision (4)(A), after “food security,” and before “resilience, rural
12 economic” by striking out “climate”

13 and in subdivision (4)(C), after “operations impacted by” and before the
14 period by striking out “climate emergencies and extreme weather” and
15 inserting in lieu thereof “weather-based emergencies”

16 Second: In Sec. 2, 6 V.S.A. chapter 207, in the new subchapter heading, by
17 striking out “Subchapter 4” and inserting in lieu thereof “Subchapter 5”

18 Third: In Sec. 2, 6 V.S.A. chapter 207, in section 4631, in the section
19 heading, by striking out “4631” and inserting in lieu thereof “4641”

20 Fourth: In Sec. 2, 6 V.S.A. chapter 207, in section 4631, in subdivision (3),
21 by striking out “4634” and inserting in lieu thereof “4644”

1 Fifth: In Sec. 2, 6 V.S.A. chapter 207, in section 4632, in the section
2 heading, by striking out “4632” and inserting in lieu thereof “4642”

3 Sixth: In Sec. 2, 6 V.S.A. chapter 207, in section 4633, in the section
4 heading, by striking out “4633” and inserting in lieu thereof “4643”

5 and by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof
6 the following:

7 (b) The Secretary shall develop a streamlined application for awards under
8 this section that shall include:

9 (1) a brief description of the damage that occurred;

10 (2) attestation of an eligible weather condition or event;

11 (3) a list of any State grants or loans received for the purposes of the
12 farm or forestry operation business in the past five years, to include amount,
13 source, and purposes of the funding received;

14 (4) an estimate of losses; and

15 (5) a year-end report of farm or forestry operation income and expenses.

16 and by striking out subsection (f) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof
17 the following:

18 (f) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may pay reasonable
19 administrative expenses from the Fund for purposes of administering the
20 requirements of this subchapter.

1 Seventh: In Sec. 2, 6 V.S.A. chapter 207, in section 4634, in the section
2 heading, by striking out “4634” and inserting in lieu thereof “4644”

3 Eighth: In Sec. 2, 6 V.S.A. chapter 207, in section 4634, in subdivision
4 (c)(1), in the first sentence, by striking out “subdivision (b)(3)” and inserting in
5 lieu thereof “subdivision (b)(4)”

6 and in subdivision (c)(1), in the third sentence, by striking out “subdivision
7 (b)(4)” and inserting in lieu thereof “subdivision (b)(5)”

8 and in subdivision (c)(1), in the fourth sentence, by striking out
9 “subdivision (b)(5)” and inserting in lieu thereof “subdivision (b)(6)”

10 Ninth: By adding a Sec. 2a to read as follows:

11 Sec. 2a. CONTIGENCY OF FUNDING

12 The duty to implement Sec. 2 of this act (Farm and Forestry Operations
13 Security Special Fund) is contingent upon an appropriation of funds in fiscal
14 year 2027 or subsequent fiscal years from the General Fund to the Agency of
15 Agriculture, Food and Markets for the specific purposes described in Sec. 2 of
16 this act.

17 Tenth: In Sec. 3, effective date, by striking out “2025” and inserting in lieu
18 thereof “2026”

19 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act
20 relating to establishing the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special

1 Fund to provide payments for farm and forestry operation losses due to
2 weather conditions”

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7 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE